

# Abagnale Fraud Tips

## Short-Change Artist

Short-change artists always deal with cash transactions. Victims of short-change artists often do not know exactly what happened or how it happened. The short-change artist is hard to spot because he or she looks like everyone else.

**The Artist May:**

- ...be any age, even an elderly person or a small child,
- ...look ordinary and respectable,
- ...act pleasant and unsuspecting, and
- ...easily gain confidence and trust.

**The Artist Will Usually Do The Following:**

- ...purchase a small item (often less than \$1.00),
- ...pay for the item with a large bill (a \$20, \$50 or \$100),
- ...request that change be broken down even further,
- ...try to create confusion about the amount of change involved in the transaction.

The following is a sample Short-Change situation:



"Good afternoon, miss. Let me take these razor blades."  
"98¢, sir."



"98¢? Here's a \$20 bill, miss."  
"Thank you sir, that's 98¢ out of \$20."



"Here's your change. 2¢ makes a dollar, that's 2, 3, 4; 1 is 5; 5 is 10 and 10 is 20. Have a nice day, sir."  
"Tell you what, miss. I really didn't want all this change. Do you think I might just trouble you for a \$10 for \$5 and \$5 ones?"



"Certainly sir. Here is a \$10."



"And here is the \$5 and \$5 ones. You might want to count that. Make sure I gave you the right change."  
"Thank you, sir."



"I'm glad you said that. You only gave me \$9.00. I'm afraid you owe me one more dollar."  
"Look miss, this is ridiculous. What did you do with my \$20?"



"It's right here on my register, sir, where it's supposed to be."  
"I'll tell you what miss, let me just get my \$20 back. You say you have \$9.00 there?"



"Here's \$1 makes \$10 and here's \$10 more, makes \$20. Have a nice day!"

How much was she short-changed? \$10. If she had been given a \$50 she would have been short \$20. If she had been given a \$100 she would have been short \$40.



### To Stop the Short-Change Artist

Never try to do more than one transaction at a time. Always close out the first transaction before moving on to additional ones. Always have the customer's money before you make change.

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